Army Technical Data Workshop

THE FUTURE ROLE OF REPOSITORIES

Chaired by

- John Bender
- Paul Miskovich

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IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS -

- AMC to provide central funding for Repositories maintenance and operation.

- AMC to fund digitizing legacy data.

- Improved network connectivity between repositories.

The Future Role of Repositories

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SHORT TERM GOALS -

- Determine modes of operation of various Repositories.

- Review data elements and reconcile JEDMICS with Defense Data Dictionary.

- Exploit JEDMICS ability to store corporate information for the purposes of customer service.

The Future Role of Repositories

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LONG TERM GOALS -

Establish data ownership policy

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ACQUISITION REFORM

Chaired by

- **Phil Gilbert**

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- **Issue: Should greater use be made of leasing instead of buying?**

- **Recommendation: When shown to be more cost effective, leasing should be the preferred method of obtaining the use of item(s).**

Acquisition Reform

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- **Issue: Performance Specifications (PS) alone or in absence of Tech Data (TDP) is not always "Best Value"**

- **Recommendation: Workshop participants establish improved guidance for using PS with guidance TDPs, or PS alone, or "smart" TDP**

Acquisition Reform

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- **Issue: Acquisition Strategy frequently does not consider life-cycle technical data needs**

- **Recommendation: Establish cost effective life-cycle consideration as part of the Acquisition Strategy**

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- **Issue: Need for Tech Data is more than just logistics support**

- **Recommendation: Consider IPT insight, opportunities for competition across the life cycle, and the VECP process**

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- **Issue: Success of electronic data initiatives supports smart usage of technical data, yet emphasis is on Performance Specs, not detailed data**

- **Recommendation: Reaffirm the need for technical data beyond the Performance Spec**

Acquisition Reform

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- **Issue: How is performance verification of multiple configurations done with limited testing without access to TDP**

- **Recommendation: Reaffirm AAE and AMC Acquisition Streamlining guidance on usage of product TDP to ensure traceability of configurations**

Acquisition Reform

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New Business Processes Utilizing Intelligent Data

Chaired by

- **Richard Uldrich**
- **Carol Sitroon**

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Recommendations:

1. Data requirements should be consistent with acquisition strategy and any changes to data should be reflected in the acquisition strategy and vice versa.

2. Access to contractor formatted data is preferred method and delivery at the end of contract if it makes sense.

New Business Processes Utilizing Intelligent Data

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Recommendations:

3. Access data from start of program.

4. Recommend Automation Infrastructure be flexible enough to adapt to continuously improving Business Processes.

5. Redefine role of government repositories.

6. Store data where it makes sense and use PDM to access/control/manage it.

New Business Processes Utilizing Intelligent Data

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Recommendations:

7. Have workgroups of this type done at each command for their acquisitions and then have the results of these groups brought to an AMC workgroup for discussion.

8. Do not dictate use of standard business processes (one size does not fit all), but standardize interfaces for exchange within government.

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Recommendations:

9. Develop handbook on how to acquire electronic data to support the business process.

10. Identify standard messages that are required, and define their content to use in data exchange.

> **ex. X12 transaction sets (EDI)**

> **ex. Step 232 (exchange messages)(how you package the technical data) - PDM systems.**

New Business Processes Utilizing Intelligent Data

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DATA EXCHANGE

Chaired by

- John Montgomery

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PARKING LOT ISSUES

- Centralized vs. distributed repository
- Politics barrier to BPR and tech.
- Responsibility for and management of data
- Approved vs. in-process data
- Other business processes beyond tech. data
- Knowledge of EDM system (training, expertise)
- Industry access to government system
- User requirements
  - For repository
  - Data type vs. usage

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TOP ELEVEN ISSUES

1. Data standards (no comprehensive tech data standards (eng., CM; no standardized CITIS data)
2. Tools for multiple formats (viewer, conversion, storage)
3. Data transport media/methods (multiple formats)
4. Access control/security (data aware, approval/signature, distribution restrictions)
5. Currency of data, e.g., specs (access to CM data)
6. Infrastructure requirements and availability

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TOP ELEVEN ISSUES (Cont'd)

7. Data formats vs. usage (life cycle from development to sustainment) (common denominator? What to buy? COOP?)

8. System interfaces (gov't and primes, e.g., CITIS)

9. Slowness of automation systems upgrades (politics, resources)

10. CITIS compatibility with MSC and other CITIS (no standard CITIS, transfer of data)

11. Global data (LCN vs. other ID)

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ISSUE 1. DATA STANDARDS

CURRENT	ACTIONS

CURRENT

EC/EDI, CALS, STEP, CM I/F, DDDS,

MIL-STD-2549, commercial (PDF and others)

ACTIONS

- Bless use of commercial standards, e.g., PDF
- Repository meta data I/F spec. (multi data type identification)
- Update tech. data dictionary (document AMC usage; forward to DoD)
- Uniform archival schemes or wrapper (commercial)

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ISSUE 2. TOOLS FOR MULTIPLE FORMATS

CURRENT

- COTS
- Tool set (JEDMICS/DB)
- Incompatibility tools
- No COE/architecture
- Show tech refresh role
- Architecture is not the answer

ACTIONS

- Tech refresh (resources)
- Distribution of resources based on need
- Plan for technology advance
- Budget wedge (IDE?)
- Site license/gov't owned low cost (free)
- Account as investment vs. ops expense
- Minimize data conversions
- Connect/manage Army formats

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ISSUE 3. TRANSPORT MECHANISMS

CURRENT

- **Physical media**
  - 1840 tape
  - Hierarchical file system media (compact disk, floppy disk)
  - Paper & aperture cards (not multi format)
- **Electronic media**
  - FTP, e-mail,
  - EC/EDI, FACNET,
  - Internet, BBS

ACTIONS

- **Network availability to customers:**
  - assess current
  - plan to modernize

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ISSUE 4. ACCESS CONTROL

CURRENT

ACTIONS

- Further study - ran out of time

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ISSUE 5. CURRENCY OF DATA

CURRENT

- Data is not always maintained by gov't
- (maybe at prime or sub)
- No uniform CM system
- Commercial specs (IHS), CM, TDCMS (70%)
- No uniform interface to TDCMS
- Standard TDCMS?
- CM vs. PDM?

ACTIONS

- Put priority on keeping gov't CM & repository data maintained for prime-managed items, or access to primes
- Continue to push for CM system improvement
- Further study on PDM

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ISSUE 6. INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABILITY

CURRENT

- Tech refresh
- Lack of MSC architecture coordination
- Moving in same direction at different rates?

ACTIONS

- Disseminate AMC plan (IDE action) - living document, today's & tomorrow's vision

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ISSUE 7. DATA FORMATS VS. USAGE

CURRENT

- Multiple formats for same data
- No software version control (CAD)

ACTIONS

- Further study
- Manage multiple data types
- Version control on software used to create data

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ISSUE 8. SYSTEM INTERFACES

CURRENT

No COE?
(vault/PDM/other)

ACTIONS

- Policy to overcome disparate architecture with interfaces (flexible)

- Bless use of intra/internet

- Build interfaces between internet & gov't systems (secure if needed)

- AMC RDA involvement in JLIT

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ISSUE 9. SLOWNESS OF AUTOMATION

CURRENT

- Systems are not interfaced
- Efforts to evolve process not successful
- Jungle rules
- Replace systems vs. evolve process

ACTIONS

- Define core systems
- Provide tools & interfaces
- Let MSC integrate within boundaries (resources)

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ISSUE 10. COMPATIBILITY OF CITIS WITH MSC

CURRENT

- Gov't system for configuration interface
- No resourcing of gov't CITIS users beyond PM/matrix

ACTIONS

- Plan for when gov't takes responsibility for data
- Take another look at CITIS
- Guidance on as-built configuration

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ISSUE 11. GLOBAL DATA

CURRENT	ACTION
• MEDALS and NEDALS	• Further study

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THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL DATA

Chaired by

- Mike West

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Definition of Technical Data:

Data necessary to describe, manufacture, procure, field and support the qualified design of a configuration item

The Role of Technical Data

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Points of Discussion

- **Importance of acquisition and sustainment strategies**
- **Definition of technical data**
- **Current/future uses of technical data**
- **Cost of technical data**
- **Access vs Ownership**
- **Risk of not acquiring data**
- **Type of commodity**
- **Multiple formats and approaches**

The Role of Technical Data

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What data is value added?

- **All elements of tech data have value. However, all elements are not necessary for all systems.**

- **Tech data requirements should be tailored to the system. Type of data dependent on the acquisition and sustainment strategies.**

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What is the purpose of the data?

- Spare parts procurement
- Maintenance/overhaul
- Provisioning
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- System Operation
- Qualification/acceptance of product design/parts
- Modernization
- Engineering Support

The Role of Technical Data

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What is the future of Technical Data?

The future role of technical data remains the same. It will continue to provide the customer the necessary information to ensure a usable quality product. However, current government business processes are changing.

The Role of Technical Data

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Conclusions

- **There is still a valid need for technical data**
- **The effectiveness of technical data management starts with the acquisition and sustainment strategies**
- **The level of technical data bought depends on achieving a balance of factors - cost, risk, type of commodity, acquisition and sustainment strategies, etc..**

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Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Multiple data formats and data transfer approaches are currently cumbersome and inefficient

- Current structure dilutes accountability of Program Managers for decisions affecting long term impacts of technical data

- Program Management Integrated Product Teams must be better trained to function with the latest technology on concepts in data acquisition.

The Role of Technical Data

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Recommendations

- **Set of metrics for technical data**
- **Develop direction that program Technical Data decisions and acquisition be shown to be consistent and support the life cycle sustainment plan of the deployed configuration item**
- **Develop guidelines/templates on when ownership of data should be procured versus access only**
- **Increase emphasis on Program Manager Integrated Product Team (IPT) training**

The Role of Technical Data